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Michigan Technology Leader Named to Premier 100

Lansing - The Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT) announced today that one of their key department leaders, C. Douglass Couto, has just been named as one of the Premier 100 Information Technology (IT) Leaders in the industry by Computerworld. Mr. Couto serves as an Information Officer for MDIT, overseeing the major technology initiatives for the Michigan Department of Transportation, Department of Management and Budget, Department of Civil Service, Department of Civil Rights, and the State Budget Office.

"Doug has been a key player for us as we have transformed the way we administer technology in state government," said Ken Theis, Deputy Director for MDIT. "It doesn't surprise me that he's been named to this distinguished list of the Premier 100. Many of Doug's technology initiatives have received national attention, including the great work he has done with the Department of Transportation to make the jobs of field workers easier through electronic on-site data collection."

Computerworld's Premier 100 IT Leaders list honors individuals who have had a positive impact on their organizations through technology. These are men and women who manage internal IT organizations, mentor and motivate with interesting challenges and positive work environments, envision innovative solutions to business challenges, and effectively manage and execute IT strategies.

"We are extremely proud of Doug," added Teri Takai, Director of MDIT and member of Governor Granholm's cabinet. "He continues to build strong relationships with our partner agencies and has been a great example of the kind of innovative and strategic thinking that we need."

Each year, Computerworld accepts nominations from across the industry for this award from vendors, IT users, public relations and marketing professionals, Computerworld readers and past Premier 100 honorees. Nominations for the 2005 Premier 100 list were collected in May and June 2004. Mr. Couto was selected for the award from a total of 568 nominations.

A panel of Computerworld editors and outside judges evaluated all of the nominees based on the following criteria:

- ❑ Guiding the effective use of information technology to improve business performance.
- ❑ Promoting an IT vision that supports the corporate strategy.
- ❑ Identifying strategic opportunities provided by IT.
- ❑ Thinking beyond short-term tactical needs to long-term strategic goals.
- ❑ Understanding of business needs and profit/loss responsibilities beyond the IT department.
- ❑ Connecting technology and innovation to specific business needs and goals.
- ❑ Taking calculated risks with contingency plans in place.
- ❑ Learning from failure and using these experiences to improve IT processes and products.
- ❑ Hiring inquisitive people who like to explore and are innovative.
- ❑ Creating work environments that are positive and rewarding for employees.
- ❑ Encouraging staffers to be innovative and to come up with ideas.
- ❑ Developing leadership skills inside the IT organization.

Mr. Couto is a resident of East Lansing. He came to the State of Michigan in 1997 as the Chief Information Officer for MDOT after serving as the Chief Information Officer for the State of Iowa. He spent 22 years in various information management positions while on active duty with the United States Air Force, including Director of Information Management for the Air Force Intelligence Agency in San Antonio, Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa where he earned a Bachelors of Business Administration Degree and he is also a graduate of George Washington University where he completed a Masters of Public Administration Degree and a Masters of Business Administration Degree. Mr. Couto is also a graduate of the National Defense University.